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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Carcieri Releases Statewide Test Results; Most Students Achieve Proficiency**

PROVIDENCE – Governor Donald L. Carcieri today (March 23) released the results of the first tests administered under the new statewide assessment system for elementary and middle schools. The results show that the majority of Rhode Island students achieved proficiency.

The test results show that 50 percent of the students achieved proficiency in mathematics, 59 percent achieved proficiency in reading, and 51 percent achieved proficiency in writing.

“We now have a new statewide assessment system for elementary and middle school students directly tied to standards and classroom instruction,” Governor Carcieri said. “Through this collaboration with Vermont and New Hampshire, we have shared the costs to create this comprehensive assessment. This new system is enabling parents and teachers to determine where students are doing well and where they are experiencing challenges. This truly marks a new era in how we gauge student performance in Rhode Island.”

“Rhode Island educators should be proud today, because a whole cadre of professional educators worked long and hard to build these tests,” said James A. DiPrete, chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “From setting the state learning standards to designing the test questions to establishing the cut scores – all of the work was done by many educators from the three states, through many meetings over many years. We now have a benchmark measure that will serve us for years to come.”

“Today’s results show that Rhode Island elementary-school and middle-school students are performing well,” said Peter McWalters, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “Our urban-ring and suburban districts are clearly on a par with New Hampshire and Vermont. To close the performance gaps and to improve the overall state numbers, we must continue to improve the performance of students in the urban districts, where we have many students with the greatest needs and with limited proficiency in English.”

The tests, administered last October, were developed and administered in collaboration with New Hampshire and Vermont through the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), the first multistate testing collaboration in the nation.

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Reading and mathematics tests were administered to all students in grades 3 through 8; students in grades 5 and 8 were tested in writing. In previous years, students were tested in only grades 4 and 8. (High school students are tested in the spring; results of the most recent high-school tests were released last fall.)

The NECAP tests, unlike previous state assessments, are based on the state standards that were developed by teams of New England educators. Each question on the test is directly related to a specific element in the state standards – what students should know and be able to do – for each subject and grade level. These standards are posted on the RIDE website, at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/standards/gle/default.htm>

The tests and test reports were developed by Measured Progress, of New Hampshire.

Test results by school and district, plus a statewide summary and responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the state tests, are available on the RIDE website, [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)